

godowns and as such at no point of time the entire storage capacity of procured rice is saturated.

(d) The Government of West Bengal has been implementing the scheme successfully.

Storage capacity for foodgrains

1230. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 50 million tonnes of foodgrains are lying idle in Central Government godowns;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India is in need of storage space for forthcoming procurement operations; and

(c) what are the plans which Government are proposing to make constructive use of these food-stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHIRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (b) As on 1.6.2001, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) was holding a stock of 32.90 million tonnes of foodgrains as against its total storage capacity of 34.36 million tonnes.

The stocks in the Central Pool i.e. including stocks held by State agencies is 60.70 million tonnes.

The storage capacity of the FCI increases or decreases depending upon the trend of procurement and off take/sale of foodgrains in the procuring/consuming States. The FCI creates additional storage capacity by construction of its own godowns as well as plinths besides hiring storage capacity available with the agencies. The field officers of FCI have also been delegated full powers for hiring of storage capacity as and when considered necessary. Keeping in view the requirement for storage of rice, FCI will give 7 years guarantee for creation of additional storage capacity of about 63 lakh MTs by the State Warehousing Corporation, State Governments and Central Warehousing Corporation in Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and

Uttar Pradesh. In addition, FCI has also advertised for creation of conventional godowns on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis through Private Sector participation at 78 locations involving 5.88 lakh MTs of storage capacity in 14 States.

(c) Foodgrains are being allotted to the States/UTs from the Central Pool for TPDS, Defence/Paramilitary forces, various Welfare Schemes including Food for Work Programmes etc. Besides, the Government has taken various steps to liquidate the surplus stocks of foodgrains and to improve the storage facilities. These include, *inter alia*, enhanced allocation of foodgrains under BPL, supply of foodgrains at BPL rates for various welfare schemes, open sale of wheat at reduced prices, reduction in Central Issue Prices, export of wheat and rice, construction of new godowns and hiring of godowns for storage of foodgrains. Foodgrains have also been made available to drought affected States, free of cost, for employment generation programmes. The National Policy on Handling, Storage and Transportation of Foodgrains announced by the Government also seeks to harness the efforts and resources of public and private sectors, both domestic and foreign, to create storage capacity on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

1231. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana launched by Government for the poorest of the poor people in the country;
- (b) the details of the criteria fixed for giving benefits to the poor people in the country;
- (c) whether Government have issued guidelines to the State Governments/Gram Panchayat for monitoring and effective